



Alpha Company Times

News, Notes, and Happenings from Kandahar, Shinkay, Shkin, and Tarin Kowt.
September 2004-February 2005



Greetings from Kandahar!

It is now February and we are nearing the end of the deployment. The original intent was to produce a monthly newsletter for our friends and family at home, but other priorities over here prevented that from happening. This will be the last newsletter from the war zone; the next one will be from the rear back in Hawaii. We have gone from the extremely hot weather, to the freezing cold at night, and it is now beginning to warm up again. We have seen many extremes in weather during this deployment, from the heat wave of the summer, including the day with the base wide power outage (which everyone agrees was the worst day of their lives), to the five day monsoon the week after Christmas, which turned the entire base into a giant quicksand pit.

Everyone is now preparing to come home. We have been here now through every major holiday this year, including the 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We look forward to being able to spend these holidays with our families next year. It was not totally abysmal over here, though, as we made do with what we had, and had as good a time as possible.

Once again we would like to thank everyone who has supported us through this long deployment. We have received countless amounts of care packages from our friends and families, as well as from caring citizens who sent items to us not knowing who would receive them. The cards and drawings from local school children, especially from Heleman Elementary, definitely put a big smile on everyone's faces.

We look forward to seeing everyone when we return home, and catching up on everything that we have missed over the last year. See you back in Hawaii!



Written by SSG Ian D. Mains

Photography by A Co Soldiers





Alpha Company Times

News, Notes, and Happenings from Kandahar, Shinkay, Shkin, and Tarin Kowt.
September 2004-February 2005



Combat Patch Ceremony

On 10 September, 2004, Soldiers of Alpha Company took part in a Combat Patch Ceremony conducted by Task Force Bronco, of which we are a part. The ceremony took place inside one of the giant white tents that formerly housed the Marines. During the ceremony, Colonel Pedersen, TF Bronco commander, spoke about the significant accomplishments thus far of the members of the task force. Following his comments, each member of the task force was presented with a combat patch, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.



PFC Torres receives a congratulatory handshake from CJTF-76 Commander, MG Eric Olson.



CTF Bronco Commander, COL Richard Pedersen, poses for a picture with SPC Loiurio, CPT Henry, PFC Torres, SGT Addis, and SGT Hall.



CTF Bronco Command Sergeant Major, CSM James Dickie, poses for a picture with SPC Loiurio, 1SG Garcia, PFC Torres, SGT Hall, and SGT Addis



Alpha Company Soldiers present for the ceremony pose for a group picture.



Written by SSG Ian D. Mains

Photography by A Co Soldiers





Alpha Company Times

News, Notes, and Happenings from Kandahar, Shinkay, Shkin, and Tarin Kowt.
September 2004-February 2005



Labor Day Olympics

Alpha Company Soldiers participated in several events for the Afghanyland Labor Day Olympics. There were teams competing in volleyball and dodgeball, with the dodgeball team making it to the semi-final round before being ousted by a team of several robust National Guard individuals. The damage is shown below.

Error!



Alpha Company entered a team in the volleyball tournament, but the hard work didn't pay off as we lost to the 3rd Brigade staff officers. How embarrassing.



1, 2, 3, **DODGEBALL!!!** Sand flies as the scrum for the ball ensues.



SSG Mains tries to get out of the way of a fastball thrown by the competition. SGT Young and SPC Hamilton prepare to make fun of him if he gets whacked.



SPC Knowles and SPC Hamilton TRY to look cool for the camera.



Written by SSG Ian D. Mains

Photography by A Co Soldiers





Alpha Company Times

News, Notes, and Happenings from Kandahar, Shinkay, Shkin, and Tarin Kowt.
September 2004-February 2005



Christmas

For Christmas, Alpha Company celebrated by having a cookout at the location of Node Center 60. 1SG Garcia and SPC Norman took turns manning the grill, cooking burgers, dogs, and chicken wings all afternoon. Several games of two hand touch were enjoyed by Soldiers in attendance, and were paid for with sore feet from running in boots on concrete. Many gift bags were sent by generous individuals, and were passed out amongst all Soldiers of Alpha Company. We would like to thank our friends and family who kept us in their thoughts and prayers throughout the holiday season. We couldn't be there with you this year, but we promise to make it up to you next year. Thanks for all the gifts, snacks, and cards. They definitely helped to keep morale positive.



Soldiers of Alpha Company pose for a group photo during the December 23rd Christmas Party. A good time was had by most (except SPC Norman, who for some unknown reason looks grouchy despite the festive hat).



Written by SSG Ian D. Mains

Photography by A Co Soldiers





Alpha Company Times

News, Notes, and Happenings from Kandahar, Shinkay, Shkin, and Tarin Kowt.
September 2004-February 2005



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following Soldiers on their recent promotion:

1 August 2004
PFC to SPC Hamilton
PFC to SPC Norman

1 November 2004
SSG to SFC Brown
SGT to SSG Hall

1 December 2004
2LT to 1LT Tedrick
SGT to SSG Bonilla

1 January 2005
PFC to SPC Ramsey
PFC to SPC Torres

1 February 2005
SPC to SGT Loiurio



SGT Bonilla being pinned the rank of SSG by CPT Henry and SFC Brown.



2LT Tedrick gets pinned the rank of 1LT by CPT Henry and 1SG Garcia.

Welcome Aboard!!

Alpha Company would like to welcome our new 1SG, 1SG Markell Holliday on board. He comes to us from Bagram where he worked at the CJ6. Prior to this deployment, he served as the Automation/G6 platoon sergeant. He will be holding the position of 1SG through redeployment until the reorganization to Stryker/Unit of Action.

Alpha Company would also like to extend a big Longhorn welcome to SPC Raymond Emmart. He is a 52D, Power-Generation Equipment Repairer. He will definitely be a big help in the motor pool, and we are glad to have him aboard!



Written by SSG Ian D. Mains

Photography by A Co Soldiers





Alpha Company Times

News, Notes, and Happenings from Kandahar, Shinkay, Shkin, and Tarin Kowt.
September 2004-February 2005



Reenlistment

Alpha Company has been doing very well in the reenlistment department, with 12 Soldiers having reenlisted thus far in the deployment, and another 11 waiting to reenlist. All Soldiers who have reenlisted thus far have received some type of deployment bonus, with a few raking in \$15,000. Many Soldiers have also reenlisted to affiliate with the new Stryker Brigade or Unit of Action that will be based at Schofield Barracks. Congratulations to those Soldiers who have decided to Stay Army. Those Soldiers are SSG Mains, SGT Van Dreese, SGT Smith, SGT Miranda, SGT Cooley, SPC Ramsey, SPC Torres, SPC Cajandab, SPC Govinda, SPC Fludd, SPC Yax, and SPC Emmart.



SGT Smith is reenlisted by CPT Henry.



SSG Mains and CPT Henry sign the appropriate paperwork before his reenlistment ceremony.



SPC Yax had the privilege of being one of many Soldiers who was sworn in by the Army Chief of Staff, General Peter Schoomaker.



SPC Govinda was also sworn in by General Schoomaker.



Written by SSG Ian D. Mains

Photography by A Co Soldiers



This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.